

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4481

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2200

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, UR

SUBJ: PEACEKEEPING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP MEETING,

JUNE 18

REF: USUN A-494

1. COMMITTEE OF 33 WORKING GROUP (WG) HAD LENGTHY, SOMEWHAT DIFFUSE MEETING JUNE 18 AS MEMBERS GROPED FOR MOST EFFECTIVE WAYS OF STRUCTURING WORK IN MONTHS BEFORE NEXT GA. MAIN ALTERNATIVES WERE: A) TRY TO WORK OUT GENERAL GUIDELINES, OR PRINCIPLES, TAKING AS STRATING POINT 12 DRAFT ARTICLES WHICH COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OGBU SUBMITTED TO WG ON APRIL 4 (REFAIR); B) RETURN TO LAST YEAR'S EXERCISE OF ELABORATING RESPONSIBILITIES OF SC, SYG AND ARTICLE 29 COMMITTEE (WITH SOVIETS STRONGLY ARGUING THAT ARTICLE 29 COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS SHOULD BE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS; AND C) CONSIDER SETTING UP PEACEKEEPING TRAINING ARRANGEMENTS.

2. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSION OF WORK PROGRAM, USSR (OVIN- NIKOV) DELIVERED LONG PREPARED STATEMENT ON LESSONS OF UNEF AS SEEN THROUGH SOVIET EYES. PREDICTABLY, LESSONS WERE MAINLY THAT ARTICLE 29 COMMITTEE WAS NEEDED TO CONTROL PEACEKEEPING

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OPERATIONS AND THAT PRINCIPLE OF EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC REPRE-

SENTATION -- FOR SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR PEACE-KEEPING AS WELL AS FOR FORCE -- SHOULD BE EMBODIED IN GUIDELINES. AMB SCHAUFLE REPLIED IT WAS CLEAR DIFFERENT DELEGATIONS DREW DIFFERENT LESSONS FROM UNEF. US, FOR ONE, CERTAINLY DID NOT REGARD "EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION" AS SOLE, OR EVEN MOST IMPORTANT, CRITERION FOR DETERMINING FORCE COMPOSITION.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN GLACIAL PACE OF US-USSR BILATERALS, SEEMS TO US TIME HAS COME TO LOOK HARD AT BEST WAY OF PROGRESSING IN WORKING GROUP. SINCE NEGOTIATIONS ON ARTICLE 29 COMMITTEE WOULD PROBABLY GET NOWHERE, THEY DO NOT SEEM THE ANSWER. ON OTHER HAND, GENERAL PRINCIPLES LIKE THOSE PUT FORWARD BY OGBU COULD WELL LEAD TO AGREEMENT -- ALBEIT A LEAST COMMON DENOMINATOR AGREEMENT OF LIMITED USEFULNESS. MOST WG MEMBERS APPEAR AGREEABLE TO TAKING THIS ROUTE, WITH USSR THE KEY EXCEPTION. IF DEPT AGREES, WE PROPOSE TO TRY TO OVERCOME SOVIET OBJECTIONS TO NEGOTIATING GENERAL GUIDELINES BEFORE USSR BECOMES TOO LOCKED IN TO PRIORITY CONSIDERATION OF ARTICLE 29 COMMITTEE. WE RECOGNIZE, OF COURSE, THAT SMUN PROBABLY WOULD REQUIRE INSTRUCTIONS FROM MOSCOW ON THIS POINT. WE SUSPECT, IN ANY CASE, THAT OVANNIKOV IS STALLING IN WG IN EXPECTATION OF MOSCOW REPLY TO OUR LATEST APPROACH ON BILATERALS. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE NEXT WG MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 26.
SCHAUFLE

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